第4話 falldown

!

FWIP
Y-
YOU ARE...!
PLEASE, WAIT! I'VE A MULTITUDE OF THINGS TO ASK YOU—

第4話　falldown

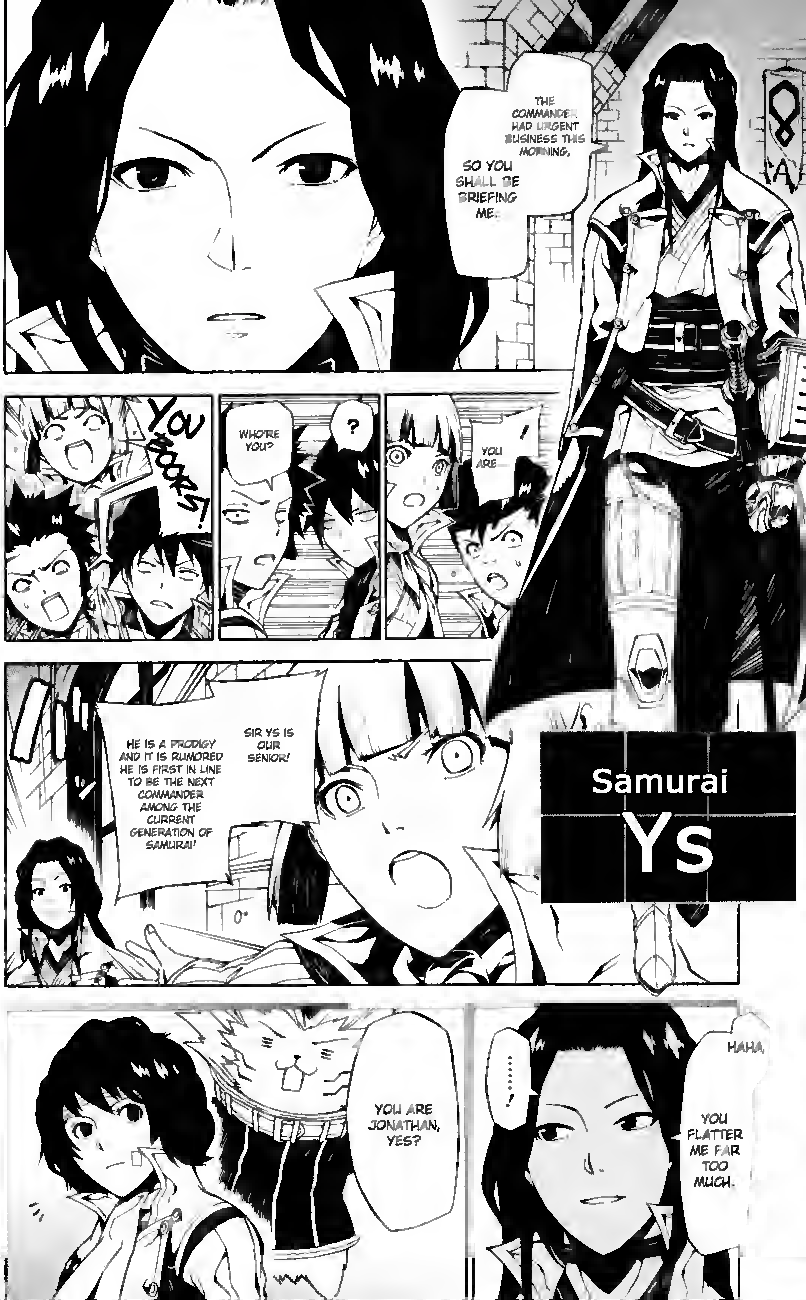
...NATHAN.
JONATHAN!

YOU'VE OVERSLEPT. HURRY AND RISE!
SEEMS YOU HAD QUITE THE GO OF IT YESTERDAY
ASUMA

THE DEVIL IS THIS BOTHERSOME THING?
HOY, BY THE BY,
!!
IT'S BEEN A TIME SINCE I'VE HAD THAT DREAM OF THE SAMURAI...
THE BOTTOM... OF NARAKU...?

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU THAT YOU MUST STAY IN THE GAUNTLET'S STOCK?
HEY, AL! CALM YOURSELF AND--
Liar! You're lying through your teeth, you!
...OH?
What? You're the one who crashed in here in the first place, weren't you?
I didn't come bounding in. Are your eyes so dim?
I'M HONESTLY ASTONISHED
TO THINK YOU WOULD BRING A DEMON BACK WITH YOU...
You're pretty good, I guess...
Ugh...
ぐぬぅ...
...I BELIEVE I'VE SAID THIS TO YOU ALREADY, ASUNA.
THAT I WOULD DEMONSTRATE HOW I PROTECT THIS PEACE.
ARE YOU FINE WITH THE WAY THIS HAS GONE?
I'LL ASK TO BE SURE:

AND THAT NO MATTER WHAT PATH I GO ON...
...I WILL ALWAYS PROTECT IT!
...HEH.
YOU ARE A MOUTHY ONE.
Mikado Castle
Samurai Station
YOUR INJURIES ARE ALL RIGHT, JONATHAN?
YES.
OH, WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO BE JONATHAN'S DEMON COMPANION?
Right!
You're real pretty, missy!
PARDON, BUT HOLD A MOMENT, PRENTICES!


THE COMMANDER HAD URGENT BUSINESS THIS MORNING.
SO YOU SHALL BE BRIEFING ME.
YOU BOORS!
WHO'RE YOU?
?
YOU ARE
HE IS A PRODIGY AND IT IS RUMORED HE IS FIRST IN LINE TO BE THE NEXT COMMANDER AMONG THE CURRENT GENERATION OF SAMURAI!
SIR YS IS OUR SENIOR!
Samurai
Ys
YOU ARE JONATHAN, YES?
.....
HAHA.
YOU FLATTER ME FAR TOO MUCH.

THE LORD
MUST HAVE BEEN WATCHING OVER YOU...
I HEARD TALL OF THE INCIDENT YESTERDAY.
YOU DID QUITE WELL, COMING BACK SAFELY FROM THAT.
Stay out of this, you!
He's Gone! Relentin' and I'm gonna get him!
FOR HIM TO HAVE BEEN THIS MANNER OF PERSON--
HIS DEMEANOR IS GENTLE, AND HIS FAITH TRUE.
SIR YS... I KNEW HE WAS RENOWNED, BUT IT SEEMS HE'S MORE FAME THAN I HAD THOUGHT.
!
!!
?
THAT IS...
Jonathan, just what are you doing showing this to the Master Samurai?
Hm, but if that isn't the most ordinary book of scripture ever!
?
I FOUND THIS
IN THE DEMON'S REMAINS--
...I'VE A REPORT, SIR YS
MAI HIME
舞姫
MORI-OUGAI
森鷗外

Those are books belonging to a genre known as 'Literature.'
I've heard tell they're in vogue.
Within them are written various tales, including many of the extreme variety.
Lately, they've even been found within Mikaela.
According to the stories, all the tales are masterpieces.
How's that? I even know about matters such as this one.
Persuasive, no?

I SEE...
Y...
Y-y-y-yes, that's all it is!
JUST AN ORDINARY BOOK OF SCRIPTURE?
NAVARRE, IS THAT REALLY

MY FELLOW PRENTICES.
YOU'D BEST KEEP YOUR EVENING OPEN!
?
...You're an utterly disagreeable one.
All right, fine...!
What's so boring about literary studies, Walter?
Wh...
WHAT'S BORING IS BORING.
BE QUIET.
AT MOST, IT'S A BOOK. WHAT'S TO BE EXCITED ABOUT?
IT'S A BORE.

MAKE FOR A SAB-BATH!
ALL ACCOUNTED FOR?
THEN LET US
A SABBATH?
Are any of you even listening!?
HE'S FAST ASLEEP IN MY ROOM.
YOU DIDN'T BRING AL?
WOULDN'T IT BE UNNATURAL IF I DIDN'T ATTEND AN EVENT AS FASHIONABLE AS THIS ONE?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME, BUT,
I HEARD ONE WAS BEING HELD IN THE CASTLE TOWN TONIGHT.
IT'S A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE MEET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS LITERARY WORKS.

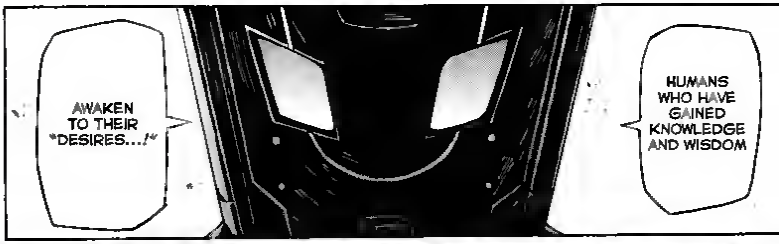
S...
SIR YS!
AH, THE FOLLIES OF YOUTH.
HEH?
HAHAH.
MIGHT YOU BE... PRENTICES THAT SPIRITED THEMSELVES OUT OF THE DORMITORIES TO ATTEND A SABBATH?
TH... THIS IS BAD
I'VE A PREMONITION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION.
GALLIVANTING ABOUT AT NIGHT, I SEE...
AS PUNISHMENT, YOU ARE ALL ORDERED TO CLEAN AQUILA'S STATUE!
WHAA-AAAT!?
よし!
WELL, SHALL WE GO?
To the Sabbath!
Please, join us there!
There's an imbecile somewhere about who was wrong about what he said!
How wonderful!
HA HAA!
...
...?
I'D HOPED YOU'D ALLOW ME TO JOIN YOU ALL...
YOU ALL HAPPENED TO CATCH MY EYE, AND SO
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...? TO BE HONEST
SIR YS...?
I'VE HELD AN INTEREST IN LITERATURE FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW

"CLASS AND STATUS HOLD NO WORTH."
THAT IS ONE OF THE RULES HERE
PROSPECTIVE INITIATES?
IF SO COVER YOUR FACE AND BODY WITH ONE OF THOSE CLOAKS
!
N-
NO, IT'S JUST AN ELABORATE REHEARSAL, ISN'T IT? HAHAHA!
...IS THIS THE SABBATH?
HOY, THERE'S SOMETHING OFF ABOUT ALL OF THIS...
.....!!
IS THIS ...?

O BLACK SAMURAI...!
YES...
THEY LOOK SO ODD...
BLACK SAMURAI?
I READ THE BOOK. MY PASSIONS HAVE NOT COOLED SINCE, BY WHICH I MEAN:
THE FLUSH OF HEAT IN MY BODY HAS NOT SUBSIDED...
O, SAMURAI! THERE... IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.
TRY SURRENDERING YOURSELF TO THAT AROUSAL.
...THAT IS GOOD.
AGH...
ARGH...
HMHM. NOW,
LET US ENJOY OURSELVES TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT THIS NIGHT...!

AH HYA HYA HYA HYA
!?
N-NUH...?
Noo ooo!
IS THIS...!?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
HUMANS
CAN BECOME DEMONS ...?
HMHM... YES, THAT'S IT.
DEMONS ARE
THE VERY "DESIRES" WITHIN MAN...

YOU HAVE GAINED KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM.
BY EXPERIENCING THE BOOKS I'VE BROUGHT,


AWAKEN TO THEIR "DESIRES...!"
HUMANS WHO HAVE GAINED KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

HYA
HYA
HYA
HYA
I CAN KILL THEEEM

HE'S HEADED FOR THE EXIT!
HE CANNOT GO OUTSIDE!
WE MUST TO DO SOME-THING TO KEEP HIM HERE—

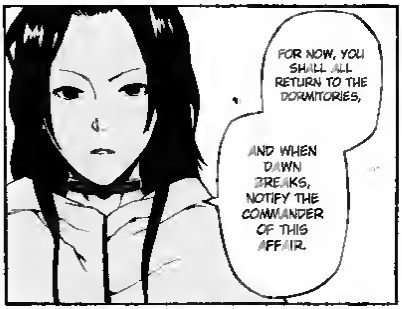
THEY ALWAYS MADE ME THE FOOL, WHAT WITH MY PATHETIC BODY
THE ONES IN THE VILLAGE...!

AMAZING. I'M FIT TO BURSTING WITH STRENGTH
I SEE WITH HOW I AM NOW
I CAN KILL THEM...

HA HA... !!
WH
I AM A SAMU-RAI.
YOU MAY HAVE BEEN HUMAN ORIGINALLY, BUT DEMONS...?
WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
GYA AA AA AA

I KILL DEMONS.
A-SU-MA...
HEY, WHERE DID THAT "BLACK SAMURAI" TYPE GET TO?
DAMN IT, WE LOST SIGHT OF HIM!

WHAT IS HAPPENING...?
LITERATURE... THE BLACK SAMURAI...
...!


FOR NOW, YOU SHALL ALL RETURN TO THE DORMITORIES,
AND WHEN DAWN BREAKS, NOTIFY THE COMMANDER OF THIS AFFAIR.

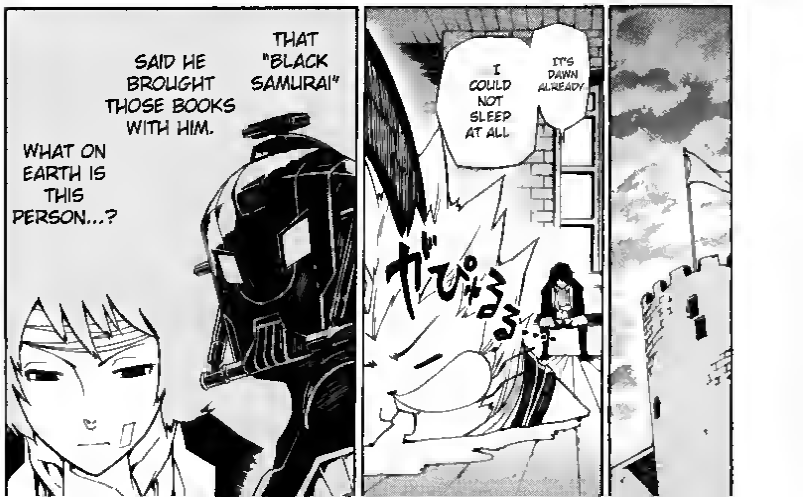
IT IS EXACTLY IN TIMES SUCH AS THESE
...LET US MAINTAIN CALM.
THAT WE SAMURAI MUST BE COMPOSED.

I AM ORDERING YOU LOT
TO "GO BACK."
!

...WE SHALL REMAIN HERE TO ASSIST YOU.
ISABEAU,

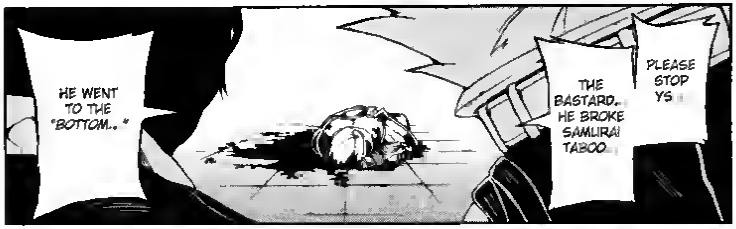
I SHALL INVESTIGATE THIS PLACE A LITTLE FURTHER,
AND THEN MAKE MY REPORT TO THE MONASTERY.

I shan't overstay in this horrifying place...!
Go back, all of you!
C... Come now, we should do as Sir Ys said!
...?


IT'S DAWN ALREADY
I COULD NOT SLEEP AT ALL
ガピョろろ
THAT "BLACK SAMURAI"
SAID HE BROUGHT THOSE BOOKS WITH HIM.
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS PERSON...?

WAAAAAARGH
THAT WEIRD NOISE WOKE ME UP
WHAT?
IT CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE PLAZA!
!!?
THIS...

!?
IT IS YS...!
IT...
I'LL GET AID FOR YOU ALL SOME-HOW—
ALL OF YOU, PLEASE HOLD FAST!


HE WENT TO THE "BOTTOM.."
THE BASTARD.. HE BROKE SAMURAI TABOO...
PLEASE STOP YS

...THE BOTTOM?
TO THE VERY BOTTOM...!
THE LOWEST STRATA OF NARAKU...